1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

The channel between the *Kurilskaya Lopatka* and this iſland is 15 verſts in breadth; over which they paſs in ſmall boats, when the weather is fair, in three hours. This paſſage requires not only fair weather, but likewiſe a flowing tide. In the time of the ebb, the waves ſpread for ſome verſts, are rapid and white, and ſo large that even in calm weather they riſe two or three fathoms high. Both the Coſſacks and *Kuriles* have a ſuperſtitious awe and veneration for theſe waves; and when they row over them, offer them a ſacrifice by throwing chips made on purpoſe, imploring a ſafe paſſage; the pilots alſo uſe conjurations the whole way.

The ſecond *Kurilskoy* iſland, *Paromuſir*, is twice as large as the firſt. It lies north-eaſt and ſouth-weſt, and is ſeparated from the firſt by a channel two verſts broad, where one veſſel may lie in time of neceſſity, but not without danger, there being no proper place for anchorage: and if a veſſel parts from her anchor, ſhe will be in very great danger; for the ſhore here being ſteep and rocky, and the channel narrow, it is next to impoſſible for her to eſcape. There was a melancholy example of this in the year 1741, when one of our veſſels was caſt away here. This iſland is alſo mountainous, and has as many lakes and rivulets as *Schumtſchu*; and on both of them, there is no other timber than *Slanetz* and *Ernick* which are uſed by the inhabitants for fuel, and they build their huts of different kinds of wood which they find thrown on the ſhore by the waves from *America* and *Japan*; among theſe are ſometimes found pieces of ranfarn wood, of which ſeveral large one's were brought thence to me. The inhabitants of this iſland are right *Kuriles*, who came there from the iſland *Onneckoot*; but upon what account is not known. All affirm, that between the inhabitants of the two above-mentioned iſlands, and the moſt remote, commerce was formerly eſtabliſh-

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CHAP. VII.

Of the VITIMSKY SABLES, *and the Method of hunting them.*

ALTHOUGH the ſable-hunting of *Vitimſky* does not properly belong to the deſcription of *Kamtſchatka*, yet as in treating of the latter we have had occaſion to mention the ſable, I thought it might not be amiſs to give an account of the various methods of this chace in different places. The *Kamtſchadales* do not ſtir out for a fortnight or more after a piece of ill-luck, or having hunted one day without game; but the *Vitimſky* hunters ſpend almoſt the whole year in continual toil, and are very happy, if, in that time, they catch ten ſables for each man in company. It is true indeed, that ten common *Vitimſky* ſables are equal to forty of *Kamtſchatka*: but, notwithſtanding, if the inhabitants of *Kamtſchatka* would take the ſame pains as thoſe of *Vitimſky*, they might exceed them in the profits of hunting; for ſables are as numerous in *Kamtſchatka* as ſquirrels are upon the river *Lena*. The *Vitimſky* hunting is the more remarkable for being ſubject to many rigorous laws and ſuperſtitious obſervations, which the hunters bind themſelves to obſerve.

Before *Siberia* was conquered by the *Ruſſians*, it abounded with ſables; but, at preſent, wherever the *Ruſſians* are ſettled, none can be catched; for ſables retire at a diſtance from all inhabited places, and live in deſolate woods and mountains. The ſable hunters go up by the river *Vitime* and the two rivers *Mama*, which fall into that river, as far as to the lake *Oronne*, which is upon the right hand, as high and higher than the great cataract, where the beſt hunting is. The fineſt ſables are caught upon

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CLASS I. *Of the* SEA FOWLS.

The ſea fowls are found in greater plenty about the coaſt of the Eaſtern Ocean, than that of the *Penſchinſka* ſea; for the coaſt of the Eaſtern Ocean is more hilly and convenient for breeding. 136

The ipatka * is well known to all writers of natural hiſtory by the name of anas arctica, commonly called in *England* puffins. It is found upon the coaſt of *Kamtſchatka*, and the *Kurilſki* iſlands, and even upon the *Penſchinſka* bay, almoſt as far as *Ochotſka*. It is about the bigneſs of, or rather ſmaller than, a common duck; its head and neck are of a bluiſh black; the back is black; the belly and all below white; its bill red, and broad towards the root, but ſomewhat narrower towards the point; upon each ſide are three furrows; its legs are red, its feet webbed, and its nails ſmall, crooked, and black; its fleſh is hard; its eggs are like hen's eggs; it builds its neſt with graſs on the cliffs of the rocks. The *Kamtſchadales* and *Kuriles* wear the bills of theſe birds about their necks faſtened to ſtraps; and, according to their ſuperſtition, their ſhamans, or prieſts, muſt put them on with proper ceremony, to procure them good fortune. 227 825

Another ſpecies of theſe birds is called meuchagatka †, and in *Ochotſka*, igilma: this only differs from the former in being all black, and having two yellowiſh white tufts upon its head, which lie all along from its ears to its neck like locks of hair. To the beſt of my remembrance this bird has never yet been deſcribed. Mr. *Steller* and I ſent ſome of theſe ſpecies of birds to the Imperial Muſeum. Among thoſe ſent by Mr. *Steller* there was a third kind which is found upon the iſland *Bondena*, in *Angermannia*, and upon the *Caroline* iſlands; and is ſome- 136

* Alca roſtri ſulcis quatuor, oculorum regione temporibuſque albis. LINN. F. ſuec. v. 42.

† Alca monochros ſulcis tribus, cerro duplici utrinque dependente. Anas arctica cirrata. STELL.

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778 776 Beſides theſe pillars ſeveral other places are reckoned ſacred, ſuch as burning and ſmoaking mountains, hot ſprings, and ſome particular woods, which they imagine are inhabited by devils, whom they fear and reverence more than their gods.

771 825 All their opinions concerning both gods and devils are certainly very ſimple and ridiculous; however, it ſhews that they endeavour to give an account for the exiſtence of every thing as far as they are able; and ſome of them try to penetrate into the thoughts of the very birds and fiſhes; but when once any opinion is eſtabliſhed, they never trouble themſelves with enquiring whether the thing be poſſible or not. Hence their religion entirely depends upon ancient tradition, which they 777 believe without examination. They have no notion of a ſupreme Being that influences their happineſs or miſery, but hold that every man's good or bad fortune depends upon 775 himſelf. The world they believe is eternal, the ſoul immortal, and that it ſhall be again joined to the body, and live eternally ſubject to the ſame fatigues and troubles as in this preſent life, with this difference only, that they ſhall have greater plenty of all the neceſſaries of life: even the very ſmalleſt animals they imagine will riſe again, and dwell under the earth. They think 772 the earth is flat, and that under it there is a firmament like our's; and under that firmament another earth like our's, in which when we have ſummer they have winter, and when we 775 have winter they have ſummer. With regard to future rewards and puniſhments, they believe that in the other world the rich will be poor and the poor will be rich.

577 Their notions of vice and virtue are as extraordinary as thoſe they entertain of God. They believe every thing lawful that procures them the ſatisfaction of their wiſhes and paſſions, and think that only to be a ſin from which they apprehend danger or ruin; ſo that they neither reckon murder, ſelf-murder, adultery, oppreſſion, nor the like, any wickedneſs: on the contrary, they

24: Lansdell-639 [2] M-2 (1879) 1882 Kamchadal
116, 177, 224, 771, 777, 784

" They have given up, to a large extent, their Shamanism, though they still take care, when hunting an animal, not to pronounce its name, lest they should be visited by ill luck."

27: Sauer--302 [2] T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 133, 136, 777, 825

"Here are no lakes of any extent: the names of the principal ones are, Osernoi, about 40 miles from Cape Lopatka; Kronotskoi, 20 miles south-east of Tolbatshinski volcano; and another of less extent, situated about 40 miles north of Neizshni Kamtshatka, called Nerpitshi: the natives say that they are replete with fish; and tradition relates, that the fish of these lakes had two heads, or that they possessed legs; and, being sacred to some deity or demon, those who presumed to ensnare them were punished with misfortunes: some of the natives, however, seem to doubt the truth of this, while others still firmly believe it."